

New jobs have indeed been created—not for the workers, but for more eggheads in the think tanks: The aforementioned Prof. Erich Staudt, for example, is now the director of the Innovation Research Institute, set up with the support of the metal workers' union and the SPD-run city administration of Duisburg. His institute is now working on schemes for setting up "innovation centers." While thousands of steelworkers lose their jobs, hundreds of post-industrial "innovation experts" are employed at the universities in the region, to plan out the elimination of even more industrial jobs.

What is happening in the Ruhr is just what happened in Pittsburgh previously. Said one American analyst: "In Pittsburgh there is a decline of steel, a growth of the service sector, of corporate and administrative firms. The University of Pittsburgh has become the single largest employer." The person who gave this revealing description is Bernhard Holzner, the head of the University of Pittsburgh's Center for International Studies, which has advised European state and regional governments on how to "deal with their steel crisis imaginatively." As Holzner put it in a recent interview, what is required are "adaptive policies geared to the need to reduce employment in steel to a minor slice of the total economy. . . . We have a network of relations to institutions in Europe and are sponsoring a series of conferences. We bring our counterparts here to Pittsburgh to talk before the academic and business community."

'Crisis management'

One who was brought to Pittsburgh through this program was the former director of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation's branch in New York, Social Democratic parliamentarian Dietrich Stobbe—an admirer of Henry Kissinger, whom he met with on Feb. 8 in Washington, D.C., for a private discussion on the decoupling of Europe from the United States. Stobbe has helped to establish relations between Holzner's Institute and the headquarters of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Bonn, which will hold a conference on "Sectoral Crisis Management in Steel and Automobiles" on June 7-8 in Bonn. Professor Leonard Lynn of the Social Sciences Department of the Carnegie-Mellon Institute in Pittsburgh will be present at this conference, among other Americans.

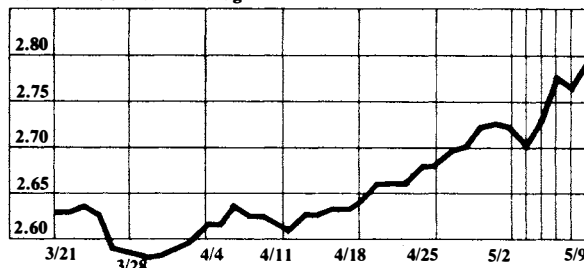
One conference participant, Tony Walters, a collaborator of Holzner's and Lynn's, described how this crisis management will work: "The question is not whether there will be problems, but only how they will be handled. I view steel as symptomatic of the industrial problems on the top of the agenda in the years to come. Steel is a model for the rest; it is the earliest to go through the wrenching process. Our job is to minimize the conflict. . . . Workers are angry, but they are divided on how to confront targeted institutions."

The current strike wave building in Germany, plus the organizing of the European Labor Party for "a fight against the assassins of the steel industry," indicate that the tranquilizers being handed out to steelworkers by the "post-industrializers" may not take effect for long.

Currency Rates

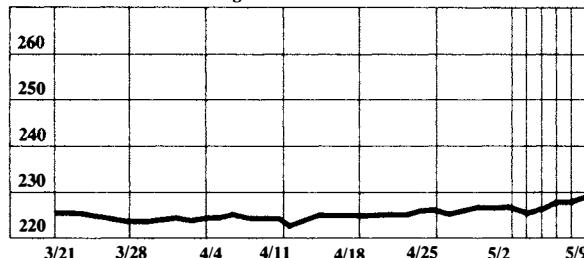
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



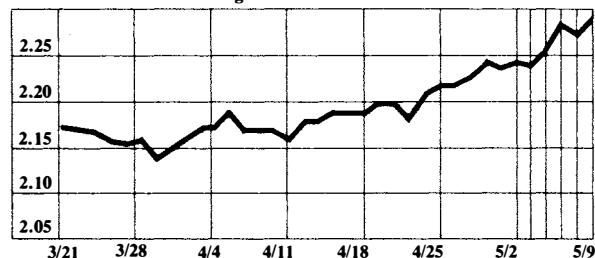
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing

